

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Yarning Group Grants 2025

Grant Guidelines

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

Acknowledgement of Country

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) respectfully acknowledges First Nations people as the Traditional Custodians of the nations and countries on which we work, and commit to building relationships, respect and opportunities with all First Nations Peoples in our region. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend recognition to all First Nations people reading this message. We respectfully acknowledge the following nations:

Wiradjuri

Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi

Wailwun

Wongaibon

Ngemba / Nyemba / Ngiyampaa

Murrawarri

Barkindji

Barindji

Barundji

Nyirrpa

Karenggapa

Wadigali

Wilyakali / Wiljali

Wandjiwalgu

Danggali

Muthi-Muthi

Kureinji

Gunu

Barranbinya

Bandjigali

Malyangaba

Dadi Dadi

We acknowledge Elders who are the knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers, the youth who are the hope for a brighter future and who will be the future leaders. We acknowledge and pay our respect to First Nations people who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to First Nations people and community.

WNSW PHN's Commitment to Reconciliation

WNSW PHN is committed to reconciliation and demonstrates its commitment by building meaningful, sustainable initiatives in partnership with First Nations communities that close the gap and achieve equitable health outcomes First Nations people. WNSW PHN is committed to leading this journey through its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which is built on respect, relationships and opportunities. This reconciliation journey is grounded in truth telling, listening, learning, and partnering with First Nations communities.

You can find out more about WNSW PHN's commitment to reconciliation in its Innovate RAP [HERE](#).

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1. About the Western NSW Primary Health Network

The **Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)**, is one of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia, established to support frontline health services and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care. Our focus is people who are at risk of poor health outcomes and working to improve the coordination of their care, so they receive the right care in the right place at the right time. We work closely with key stakeholders including general practice, other health care providers, Local Health Districts, hospitals and the broader community to align services with the health needs of the region.

WNSW PHN is a not-for-profit organisation primarily funded by the Australian Government.

WNSW PHN covers both Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts across a total area of 433,379 square kilometres, making it the largest PHN in NSW (at 53.5%). The total population is estimated to be over 312,000 people, with 20.3% over the age of 65 years. Approximately 11.36% of people in the WNSW PHN region identify as First Nations (ABS, 2021).

The geographic region covered by WNSW PHN is captured in Figure 1 below. You can also check to see if you fall within the WNSW PHN region, using the PHN Location Map found [HERE](#).

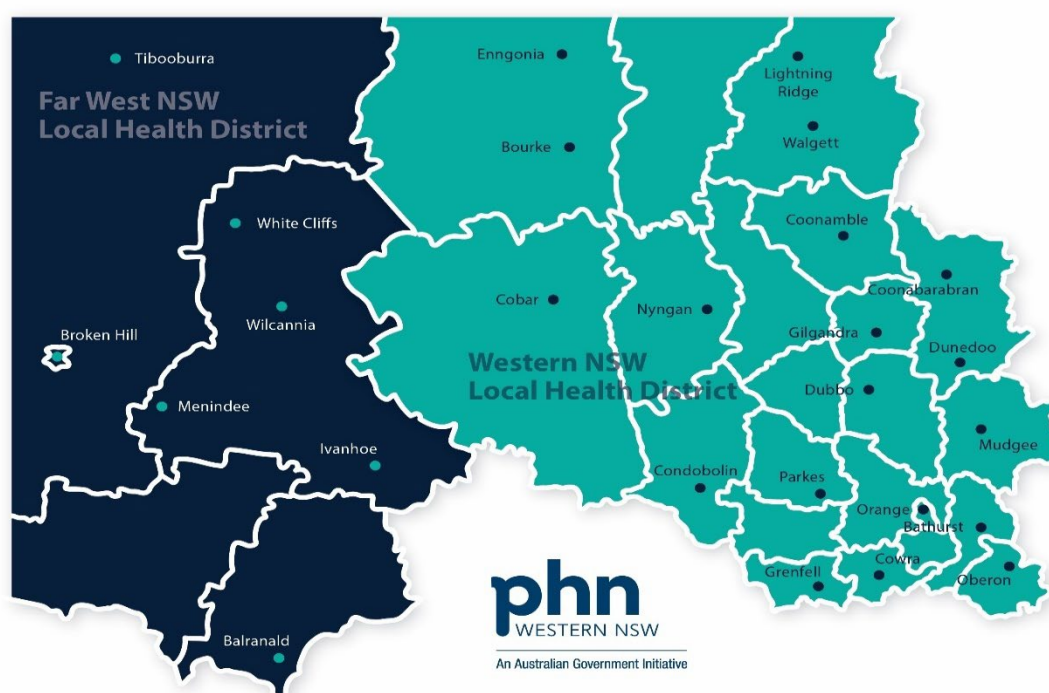


FIGURE 1 - WNSW PHN GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

2. Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing yarning group grants

WNSW PHN is supporting the establishment of up to 20 Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Yarning Groups across the region. These groups are intended to provide culturally safe and locally responsive spaces for Aboriginal people to come together and yarn about health and wellbeing, with a clear focus on chronic disease prevention and management.

The Yarning Groups will centre on health priorities such as diabetes, cardiovascular health, kidney disease, respiratory conditions, and other chronic illnesses impacting Aboriginal communities. Yarning Groups must be conducted at least once a month for a 12 month period.

While the primary focus is on chronic disease, the groups may be tailored to meet the needs and interests of local communities and can include:

- Elders Groups
- Men's Groups
- Women's Groups
- Youth Groups
- Health and Wellbeing related Groups

Each group will aim to:

- Promote health literacy and awareness of chronic disease risk factors, prevention, and management.
- Strengthen connections to culturally appropriate primary health care services.
- Facilitate peer support and shared learning in a culturally safe environment.
- Encourage holistic approaches to health and wellbeing, recognising the social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural determinants of health.

WNSW PHN is committed to working in partnership with local Aboriginal communities, Elders, health services, and community organisations to design and deliver these Yarning Groups in ways that reflect local priorities, strengths, and cultural practices.

3. Key Grants Details

Initiatives We're Looking to Fund

Activities delivered through Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Yarning Groups must align with Western NSW PHN's priorities for improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people, particularly in the prevention and management of chronic disease. All funded activities should be designed and delivered in partnership with local Aboriginal communities, ensuring cultural safety, relevance, and sustainability.

Eligible Activities

Health Education and Promotion

- Culturally appropriate education sessions on chronic disease prevention and management (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, kidney health).
- Nutrition workshops, healthy cooking demonstrations, and discussions on traditional foods.
- Physical activity programs such as walking groups, low-impact exercise classes, or traditional games.
- Engagement of health professionals to attend and support yarning groups.

Screening and Early Detection Support

- Promotion of health checks such as GP Chronic Disease Management Plans (GPCCMP) and 715 Health Checks.
- Support for accessing local screening services for chronic conditions.
- Yarning sessions focused on recognising early warning signs of chronic disease.

Access and Navigation Support

- Information sessions on local health services and how to access them.
- Inviting local health professionals to yarn with the group.
- Linking participants with Aboriginal Health Workers, practice nurses, or GPs.

Peer Support and Social Connection

- Peer-to-peer sharing of experiences in living with or preventing chronic disease.
- Providing culturally safe and welcoming spaces to reduce social isolation.
- Strengthening community ties and cultural identity through shared yarning.

Holistic Wellbeing Activities

- Cultural healing and on-Country activities that promote wellbeing.
- Social and emotional wellbeing yarning sessions.
- Smoking cessation support and health behaviour change programs.

Planning and Co-Design

- Regular discussions with group members to identify local health priorities and tailor activities.
- Collaboration with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) and other health providers.
- Strengthening health pathways for clients requiring follow-up care under GPCCMP.

Operational Support

- Venue hire, catering, and culturally appropriate incentives to support participation and engagement.

4. Grant Funding Details

Funding of up to \$12,000 (excluding GST) per eligible organisation.

Funds can be used for

- Implementation of proposed activities to achieve the intended outcomes. (Venue Hire, Catering, Transport Support (if needed), Educational Resources, Workshop Supplies, Engagement Incentives and Administration & Reporting)
- Purchase of resources (up to \$1,500 per item with a total cap of \$5,000)

Funds cannot be used for

- Costs related to personal travel or accommodation.
- Purchase of equipment (any form of ICT, including, but not limited to equipment such as laptops, computers, and so on)
- Salaries and wages.
- The preparation of grant application.

Grant Timeline

Grant Applications Open:	24 October	2025
Grant Applications Close:	16 December	2025
Grants Awarded:	06 January	2026
Activities completed by:	31 January	2027

5. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- Hold Public Liability Insurance for the duration of the proposed activities (minimum \$10 million coverage).
- Be able to deliver the proposed activity by 31 January 2027.
- Be an organisation located within the Western NSW PHN region.

Eligible applicants must be one of the following:

1. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) or Aboriginal organisations/businesses with a valid ABN.
2. Local Aboriginal committees operating under formal auspice arrangements with an eligible incorporated organisation.
3. Local community groups working in partnership with First Nations communities.
 - Applications from non-Aboriginal entities must include letters of endorsement from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations or recognised Aboriginal community groups.

6. Deliverables

Activity Deliverables

- Delivery of health and wellbeing activities through Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Yarning Groups, as proposed and agreed in the Grant Agreement.
- Activities must align with Western NSW PHN priorities, particularly in the prevention and management of chronic disease.
- Engagement of local Aboriginal communities in the design and delivery of culturally safe, relevant, and sustainable initiatives.
- Evidence of participation, impact, and community feedback, including strengthened connections to culturally appropriate primary health care services.

Reporting Requirements

1. Evidence of appropriate insurance coverage.
2. Quarterly Activity Reports
Each organisation must submit a quarterly report in the Excel template provided by the project lead.

Reports must be submitted via email and include the following information:

- Postcode
- Organisation and company details
- Contact person
- Number of community members attending Yarning Groups
- De-identified participant details (Gender and Age)
- Activities conducted
- Health professionals who attended
- Chronic diseases discussed
- Follow-up actions (if applicable)
- Community feedback
- Good news stories from community members

These reports will help monitor progress, ensure alignment with Western NSW PHN priorities, and capture community impact

3. Unaudited financial Expenditure report.

7. Grant Conditions

1. WNSW PHN reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the Grant.
2. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with WNSW PHN.
3. Applicants must disclose potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
4. Breaches of terms may result in Grant recovery.
5. Successful Grants may be publicly listed on the WNSW PHN website.
6. Applicant must ensure compliance with working with children checks.
7. Applicant must acknowledge WNSW PHN in promotions.

8. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Submission of fully completed application.
- Meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 5.
- Evaluation Criteria below:

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following six criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of 10, with a total possible score of 60 points.

Evaluation Criteria	Description	Weight
Focus on Key Health Areas	The proposed Yarning Group initiative alignment to key health areas that include: - Chronic Disease (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, kidney health) - Social and Emotional Wellbeing - Improving Health Literacy	10
Group Type and Target Audience	Initiatives should be tailored to meet the needs of specific community groups, such as: - Men's Groups - Women's Groups - Youth Groups - Elders Groups	10
Community-Led and Driven Initiatives	Projects should be initiated and led by Aboriginal communities, demonstrating: - Active participation and leadership from community members - Culturally appropriate design and delivery that reflects community values	10
Potential for Positive Impact	Applications should clearly outline anticipated benefits, including: - Improved health literacy and chronic disease prevention - Increased uptake of health assessments (e.g. GPCCMP, 715 Health Check) - Strengthened social and emotional wellbeing through culturally grounded approaches	10
Feasibility and Sustainability	Proposals must demonstrate: - A clear and achievable implementation plan - Efficient use of the \$12,000 grant - Strategies for sustaining group activities beyond the funding period, where applicable	10
Cultural Safety and Appropriateness	Initiatives must align with principles of cultural safety, including: - Respect for Aboriginal cultural practices and beliefs - Creation of safe spaces for participants to engage and share - Inclusion of traditional knowledge and practices where appropriate	10

9. Grant Application

To apply for Grant funding:

1. Review and accept all conditions.
2. Submit application on or before 16 December 2025 9.00AM.
3. Complete the Application Form: [HERE](#) or use the QR Code:



10. Further Information

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